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ABSTRACT

Focusing on seven classics of literature that are most challenging for teachers and students, but which are also a part of the high school literary canon, this book shares ways to create a learner-centered classroom for the study of literature. For each of the seven classics, the book "walks teachers through" the teaching-learning process, beginning with engagement activities, step-by-step study strategies, ongoing assessments, the completion of projects, and the creation and use of evaluation rubrics. After a preface and an introduction, chapters in the book (and their associated classics) are: (1) Sex, Violence, and Just Desserts ("Macbeth"); (2) Sin and Guilt, the American Way ("The Scarlet Letter"); (3) Kind Hearts and Rapscallions ("The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"); (4) The End Justifies the Means and Other Campaign Strategies ("The Lord of the Flies"); (5) Paradoxes and Paradigms ("A Tale of Two Cities"); (6) The American Dream and All That Jazz ("The Great Gatsby"); and (7) Everything You Ever Wanted To Know about the Meaning of Life ("Hamlet"). The book concludes that this approach to studying the classics was very effective in helping students discover the classics in ways that make sense to them. (RS)

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